

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed November 9, 2005, claims 14-16 were examined and the prior obviousness rejections over *Beauchemin* (U.S. Patent No. 5,720,971) or *Toshiyasu* (JP 05192093) maintained. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks which follow.

A. Further Amended Claims 16, 17 and 18 are Patentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,720,971 to *Beauchemin* and the *Toshivasu* Abstract.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner concluded that any preamble language "less that 'consisting of' still meetings the instant invention as claimed." Accordingly, claim 14 has been amended to recite the required "consisting of":

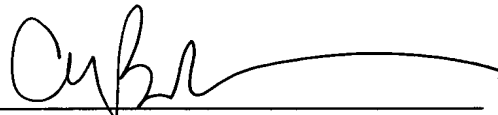
14. A method of increasing the total milk production of dairy cows comprising:
treating the feed **with a composition consisting of a**
Trichoderma viride cellulase enzyme; and
feeding the treated feed to the dairy cows.

Claims 15 and 16 and have amended in an analogous manner. Thus, claims 14, 15 and 16 are patentably distinguishable over *Beauchemin* and *Toshivasu*, since *Beauchemin*'s preferred compositions are mixtures of cellulase and xylanase, and *Toshivasu*'s compositions include one or more kinds of essential amino acids. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14-16 is respectfully requested.

B. Conclusion.

Although no fee is believed due, any fee associated herewith may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is kindly asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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